

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes amendments to FIG. 2 and an additional FIG. 7.

a. In the amendment to FIG. 2, element numbers 210 and 250 were added to the figure. No new matter was added with this amendment.

b. FIG. 7 is a flowchart outlining the method steps of an embodiment of the present invention. No new matter was added with this amendment.

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his thoughtful review of the present application.
The status of the claims is as follows:

- a. **Claims 1-52 are Pending in the present application.**
- b. **Claims 32-51 have been withdrawn from consideration.**
- c. **Claims 1-4, 9-15, 17, 21, 22 and 52 are rejected.**
- d. **Claims 23-31 are allowed.**
- e. **Claims 2, 4, 5, 14-16 and 52 are canceled.**
- f. **Claims 5-8, 16 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.**
- g. **Claims 1, 3, 6, and 11 have been amended for clarification.**

I. PRESENT AMENDMENT

Independent **Claims 1 and 11** were amended to distinctly point out and particularly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as his invention. Specifically, those claims have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of **Claims 5 and 16** respectively. No new matter has been introduced with the amendment of this application.

ii. ARGUMENT**1. Examiner Objections**

a. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter.

Applicant respectfully asserts that specification has been amended herein above in light of the Examiner's outlined objection. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection should now be withdrawn.

b. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Applicant respectfully asserts that drawings have been amended in light of the Examiner's outlined objection. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection should now be withdrawn.

2. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

a. **Rejection of Claims 1-4, 9-15, 17, 21-22 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) (376 Reference)**

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and asserts that independent Claims 1 and 11 were amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 16 respectively. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 3, 6-10, 12-13 and 17-22 respectively depend from independent Claims and 11. Therefore, Claims 3, 6-10, 12-13 and 17-22 are also patentably distinct in view of the Examiner's reference and the rejections of Claims 3, 6-10, 12-13 and 17-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) ought to now be withdrawn.

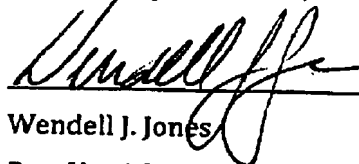
iii. CONCLUSION

Applicant now believes the present case to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner.

It is believed that all of the pending Claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending Claims (or other Claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any Claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any Claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the Claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant believes that no fees are currently due, however, should any fee be deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment and Response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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